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III.—THE EDITIO PRINCEPS OF THE GREEK ÆSOP.

So many uncertainties surround the first edition of Æsop's Fables in a Greek form that although bibliographers have been discussing the subject for several centuries there still remains much to be done in order to clear away the difficulties which surround this knotty problem. In the present article an investigation of certain phases of the question will be attempted, and it is hoped that the result will be readily recognized as a distinct advance in one or more directions in the way of attaining to greater definiteness in our information concerning the copies of this edition which have hitherto escaped the ravages of time.

The first point to engage our attention will naturally be to determine, as well as may be, how many copies of the Editio Princeps are still in existence, and where they are preserved. By means of personal research, correspondence with librarians, and in various other ways it has been possible to construct the following list of libraries and shelf-numbers :

LIST OF EXTANT COPIES.

1. Firenze, R. Bibl. Mediceo-Laurenziana, K. 3. 401.
2. London, British Museum, C. 1. a. 1.
3. London, British Museum, C. 19. c.
4. London, British Museum, G. 7726.
5. Manchester, John Rylands Library, 3474.
6. München, K. B. Hof- u. Staatsbibliothek, Inc. s. a. 56. 4°.
7. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Auct. K. 4. 9.
8. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce A. 541.
9. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Rés. Yb. 478 (Exposition VII, 125).
10. Washington, Library of Congress, Chap. 35 (Exhibition).

An endeavor to ascertain the contents of these ten copies immediately reveals the rather disconcerting fact that they vary widely in this respect, and yet this is only one of the many interesting problems which thrust themselves upon our notice in a study of this edition. Short descriptions of the extant copies will, therefore, throw important light on this question.

DESCRIPTIONS OF EXTANT COPIES.

1. *The Firenze Copy.*

No description of this copy is at hand, unfortunately, and we must for the present be content with the bare mention of its existence as kindly reported by Dr. Murray P. Brush, of the Johns Hopkins University, in a letter to the author of the present article written in Italy in the summer of 1897.

2-4. *The London Copies.*

The printed catalogue of the British Museum¹ gives the following collective description of these copies, only the most pertinent portions being here cited:

"*Begin.* [pt. 1 fol. 2 *recto*, after a Latin letter by the editor Bonus Accursius on fol. 1:] Αἰσωπου βιος του μυθοποιου Μαξιμου τω Πλανουδι συγγραφεις. [Fol. 33 *recto*.] Αἰσωπου μυθοι. [147 fables, including three in iambic verse by Ignatius Archbishop of Nicæa. Pt. 2 fol. a 1 *recto*.] Vita Æsopi fabulatoris clarissimi e græco latina p̄ Rynuciū facta, etc. [Fol. e 1 *recto*.] Argumentum fabulae Æsopi e græco ī latinū. [Fol. h 3 *recto*.] Totius operis anacephaleosis. hAbes uitam pariter & fabulas [100] æsopi . . . per me nup uerbis latinis intusiatas. non tamen oēs sed quotquot ad manus meas usque peruenerunt, etc. [ib. *verso*.] Finis . . . Ego Bonus accursius Pisanus: eadem in ea omnia correxi: & emendauī. 4°. C. 1. a. 1. (1.).

129 leaves, without titlepages or pagination; 25 lines to the full page. Pt. 1 has 70 leaves without signatures. Pt. 2 has 59 leaves with sig. a - h 3 in eights.

[Another copy.] C. 19. c. (1.)

[Another copy.] G. 7726. (2.)

Begin. [sig. a 2 *recto*, preceded by the preface of Bonus Accursius on fol. a 1 *verso*.] Μυθοι Αἰσωπου. Fabulae Æsopi. [A selection of 61 fables, edited in Greek with a literal Latin translation.] Bonus Accursius pisanus impressit: 4°. C. 1. a. 1. (2.)

38 leaves, without titlepage or pagination; 25 lines to the full page; register, sigs. a, b, C, D, E 6 in eights. Fol. a 2 is mutilated.

[Another copy.] C. 19. c. (2.)

[Another copy.] G. 7726. (1.)"

¹ British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books: Æsop. London: printed by William Clowes and Sons, Limited, Stamford Street and Charing Cross, 1883. Folio, 34 cols. See cols. 4-5.

5. *The Manchester Copy.*

A letter from Librarian H. Guppy, dated January 28, 1902, kindly informs me that this is the copy described by Dibdin.¹ We may therefore cite the following extracts from his description:

"On the recto of the first leaf is the following address:

Bonus Accursius Pisanus doctissimo ac sapientissimo ducali quæstori Iohanni Francisco turriano salutem plurimam dicit. . . .

On the recto of the following leaf ΑΙΚΩΠΟΥ ΒΙΟC. The Greek life terminates on the reverse of fol. 31, from its commencement. On the recto of the ensuing leaf begin the Fables . . . The fables extend to 36 leaves. On the recto of the ensuing leaf begins a Latin version by Rinutius of the life of Æsop. This continues from sign. a i. to d viiij, in eights: on the reverse of d viiij, are 14 lines, ending with FINIS. On the recto of the following leaf, sign. e, begins the Latin prose translation of the Fables; which ends on the reverse of what should be h iii. in eights, thus:

Finis.

Vita Aesopi per Rynucium thettalum traducta.

Verum quoniam ab eo nonnulla fuerūt præter
missa: fortassis q̃a græcus eius codex esset minus
emendatus: Ego Bonus accursius Pisanus: eadem
in ea omnia correxi: & emendaui.

On the reverse of the ensuing leaf (sign. a i.) is an address, in 17 lines, of Bonus Accursius Pisanus to John Franciscus Turrianus, in which mention is made of the foregoing impression. For the sake of the children of Turrianus, and that they may the more readily understand both languages, Pisanus subjoins some SELECT FABLES from Æsop—'hoc enim pacto uerbum quasi uerbo respondebit sine longa inquisitione'. [After this come the fables in parallel columns.] The signatures (a b C D) run in eights, as far as E; which latter has only six leaves: on the recto of the 6th of which, is the following colophon:

ΤΕΛΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΟΥ
ΑΙΣΩΠΟΥ ΜΥΘΩΝ

FINIS AESOPI FA
BVLARVM.

¹ Bibliotheca Spenceriana, or a Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century, and of Many Valuable First Editions, in the Library of George John Earl Spencer, K. G., &c., &c., by the Reverend Thomas Frognall Dibdin. Vol. I. London: printed for the author, by W. Bulmer & Co. (Shakespeare Press), 1814. 8vo, VIII, XII, LII and 383 pp. See pp. 221-226.

Bonus Accursius pisanus impressit: qui non doctorum hominum sed rudium ac puerorum gratia hunc laborem suscepit."

6. *The München Copy.*

A courteous letter from Geheimrat Dr. v. Laubmann, Direktor der K. Staatsbibliothek, under date of Feb. 17, 1902, contains the following statements concerning this copy:

"Unsere Bibliothek besitzt von dem griechischen Aesop, gedruckt von Bonus Accursius, nur eine unvollständige Ausgabe, welche Ludw. Hain, Repertorium bibliographicum, unter Nr. *265 ausführlich beschrieben hat. Wir besitzen also nur Teil 1: Bonus Accursius Pisanus. cum animadueterem bis τέλος τῶν τοῦ Αἰσώπου Μύθων und Teil 3: Bonus Accursius . . . in superiore codice, ut nosti, imprimi curauimus uitam et Aesopi fabulas . . . bis zur Unterschrift . . . laborem suscepit. Der 2^{te} Teil, die lat. Übersetzung des Rynucius Thettalus, fehlt also in unserem Exemplar."

As Hain's description¹ is well known and corresponds rather closely to that cited above from Dibdin, though much briefer, no specific citations from it will here be necessary.

7-8. *The Oxford Copies.*

Under date of Dec. 20, 1901, Mr. F. Madan, the Acting Librarian of the Bodleian Library, kindly writes enclosing the following descriptions from the pen of the Senior Assistant, Mr. Parker.

"Part 1.

Douce A. 541. Æsop's Life by Max. Planudes, in Greek, A 1 - D 8, showing most of the *signatures* at foot of page; they begin 2¼ in. below the text. a 1. (beg.) Bonus Accursius Pisanus . . . Johanni Francisco turriano salutem . . . Cum animadueterem . . . a 2. (beg.) Αἰσώπου Βίος. D 8, verso. (end) γεγόνασιν.

Auct. K. 4. 9^a. Another copy; the signatures cut off.

Part 2.

Auct. K. 4. 9^a. The Fables, in Greek only. 38 leaves, without signatures, unless they are cut off. (beg.) Αἰσώπου Μῦθοι . . . (end), τέλος τῶν τοῦ Αἰσώπου Μύθων.

¹ Repertorium Bibliographicum, in quo libri omnes ab arte typographica inventa usque ad annum MD. typis expressi ordine alphabetico vel simpliciter enumerantur vel adcuratius recensentur. Opera Ludovici Hain. Voluminis I. Pars I. Stuttgartiae et Tubingae. Sumtibus J. G. Cottae. MDCCCXXVI. 8vo, 596 pp. See p. 31, col. 2, No. *265.

Part 3.

Auct. K. 4. 9^b. The Latin version of Remicius. a i - [h] iii. a i. (beg.) Vita Aefopi . . . e græco latina per Rynucium facta; d. 8, v^c, Finis; e i. Argumentum fabularum . . . [h] iii, v^o (end) Ego Bonus accurfius Pifanus . . . correxi: & emendaui.

Part 4.

Auct. K. 4. 9^c. The Fables in Greek and Latin, on same pages, a i (eights) - E 6 (Sign. a, b, C, D, E). a i, r^o is blank; a i, verso, 'Bonus Accurfius Pifanus . . . Iohanni francisco Turriano salutem . . . iN superiore codice . . . Vale.' a ii. Μῦθοι Αἰσώπου, Fabulae Aefopi: (end) E 6 r^o, τέλος τῶν τοῦ Αἰσώπου Μύθων . . . Bonus Accurfius pifanus impressit . . .

Douce A. 541. Another copy, wanting leaves D 8, E 1-6.

The length and breadth of the text in each part is the same, viz. nearly $5\frac{7}{8}$ x $3\frac{7}{8}$."

9. *The Paris Copy.*

This copy forms part of the permanent exhibition (VII. 125) in the Galerie Mazarine of the Bibliothèque Nationale, and on July 24, 1897, through the kindness of the officials I was permitted to examine it. Upon this occasion I was able to take the following meagre note concerning its contents. The volume is bound plainly in red leather with full gilt edges, etc. On the back of the binding there have been stamped the words ÆSOPI || FABULÆ || MEDIOLAN || CIRCA || 1480 || TOM || I. On a fly-leaf at the beginning of the volume are the notes: 579 Y, Rés. Yb. 478, Hain 265.

Fo 1 ro begins: Bonus Accurfius Pifanus doctissimo ac sapientiffi || mo ducali quaestori Iohanni Francisco turriano || salutem plurimam dicit. The Greek text begins on fo 2 ro, comprising 31 folios; the fables themselves begin on fo 32 ro and continue to fo 69 ro, the verso being blank. The entire volume thus comprises 69 folios.

The book has been officially stamped as follows: Bibliothèque Royale. I. on fos 1 ro and 69 ro; Bibliothèque Impériale. Impr. on fos 2 ro and 32 ro; R. F. Bibliothèque Nationale. Impr. on fo 48 ro.

10. *The Washington Copy.*

Of the two copies which I have been able to personally inspect, the Washington copy alone has been carefully examined. Having

first been made aware of its existence on Mar. 24, 1896, by coming across the following entry in the printed catalogue¹:

"*Æsopus*. Αισωπου Βιος του μυθοποιου. Μαξιμου τω Πλανουδη συγγραφεις, [and] Αισωπου μυθοι. fol. 1-70 unnumb. sm. 4°. [*Bonus Accursius pisanus impressit, Mediolani?* 1480?]"

I was led at the time of publishing the first fascicule of my manual to insert the following statement in a footnote²:

"On April 7, 1896, an unsuccessful attempt was made by me to verify this entry; the most that I was able to do was to make a copy of the corresponding entry in their card catalogue, where the book is described as an imperfect copy, etc., etc., preserved in the Librarian's private office. This gentleman, Mr. A. R. Spofford, kindly made a personal search for me, but was obliged to report it as 'unfindable.' The copy in question was acquired by the *Library of Congress* in 1875."

Several subsequent visits to the library while it was still in its old and cramped quarters in the Capitol failed to discover the book's whereabouts, but on my first visit to it after its installation in the then recently completed new library building I discovered on Oct. 8, 1898, the volume which had so long eluded me in a glass case on the second floor in quite an extensive exhibit of incunabula.

Upon this occasion I was enabled to make a careful examination of this copy, and subsequently on Feb. 8, 1902, I again made a study of its many interesting features. The points especially noted by me are the following:

The volume is handsomely bound in full black morocco and full gilt, with both blind and gilt tooling including a sparing use of an ivy-leaf ornament. The tooling consists of a framework design with the ivy-leaf stamped twice at each corner, gold exteriorly, blind interiorly, and is exactly the same on both covers. On the back these words have been stamped: ÆSOPI|FABULÆ|GR.|ED. PRINC.|CIRCA.|1480. The fly-leaves are merely plain white paper more modern in appearance than that used in the body of the text, and the whole aspect of the

¹Alphabetical Catalogue of the Library of Congress. Vol. I. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1878. 4to, II and 912 pp. See p. 85, col. 1.

²A Manual of Æsopic Fable Literature, a First Book of Reference for the Period Ending A. D. 1500, by George C. Keidel. First Fascicule. Baltimore: The Friedenwald Company, 1896. 8vo, XXIV and 76 pp. (Romance and Other Studies II.) See p. 36, note 1.

binding would seem to indicate that it was executed about the middle of the last century.

The following measurements in millimetres were taken

Binding over all 165 by 225;

Size of leaves 157 by 217;

Size of Roman matrix 98 by 149;

Size of Greek matrix 98 by 148.

Although the Roman matrix of the dedicatory letter to be mentioned presently is apparently one millimetre longer than the Greek matrix, this difference is no doubt due merely to the larger size of type used for it, and the same matrix was probably used for printing the whole of the text as found in this copy.

On the inside of the front cover a label has been pasted which contains the legend: *Library of Congress.* | *Chap. 35* | *Shelf Office.* | *United States of America.* On the recto of the first fly-leaf at the top is the number 531, while the verso of the second fly-leaf contains the following annotations:

Æsopus. | Editio Princeps, 1480 | This is the largest & finest copy known of | the Greek text. 5² x 6² | *Wants:* 2d pt. 59 folios containing | *Vita A. & fabulæ e graeco latina facta* | also 3d. pt. 35 folios containing | *Fabulae selectae gr. & lat., 2 columns to the page, one greek & the other latin.* 35. Office. No water-marks are discernible on the fly-leaves, on which however the fine parallel lines run horizontally while in the body of the work they are vertical.

Combining the fact already mentioned that this copy was acquired by the Library of Congress in 1875 with the evidence furnished by the notes on the fly-leaves, we may reasonably conjecture that this copy was No. 531 of an auction sale probably held in London, and for which the notes were made by a careless dealer who has allowed himself to make a slip in his English.

The first fly-leaf at the end of the volume has on its recto the note:

Bonus Accursius pisanus impressit. | Mediolani? | 1480?

The second fly-leaf at the end is entirely blank.

Approaching now the body of the book as it left the printer's hands we find that the whole text is intact, and apparently only a small portion of the margin has been removed by the binder's knife. The whole volume is, in fact, in a perfect state of preservation, with the unimportant exception of the first leaf at the beginning and the last two at the end, which have a few spots on

them due to dampness and evidently acquired before the book received its present binding. The recto of the first leaf is also somewhat soiled and the blank verso of the last leaf is very much so, blemishes which must have been caused by much handling previous to binding.

The entire text of this copy consists of three distinct portions, which will here be considered separately. First there comes a short dedicatory epistle in Latin, then a long biography of Æsop in Greek, and then a collection of Fables also in Greek.

The Latin text occupies the whole of the recto of the first leaf, and half of its verso, the remainder of the page being blank. It reads as follows:

Fo 1 ro:

Bonus Accursius Pisanus doctissimo ac sapientissimo ducali quaestori Iohanni Francisco turriano salutem plurimam dicit.

Cum animaduernerem quanto i pretio et apud platonem et apud uniuersam uetustatem Aesopus habitus fuerit: existimaui me facturum rem non in dignam: si graecas eius fabellas & uitam una cum latina interpretatione imprimi curare: quo diuulgarentur inter omnes: & eas ad te omnium primum qui grauissimus & doctissimus sis: dono mittere. res enim graues ac seuerae redduntur ueluti mitiores: si suis salibus condiantur. hoc autem fecisse Aesopum ex hoc ad te uolumine cum per otium lectitaueris: non difficulter intelliges. nam huiusmodi fabellae inter maximas tuas occupationes afferent tibi: ut existimo: non parum uoluptatis: & ex earum lectione consules liberis tuis: quo tibi sint ut caeteris in rebus tum in doctrina eloquentiaque simillimi. Non enim me latet non licere tibi per occupationes tuas harum rerum lectioni operam dare: at ne indiges quidem: qui & scribendo & loquendo ornatissimus sis & eruditissimus. Verum liberi tui si huic rei studuerint: reddentur propediem & docti & disertissimi in primis: quos

Fo 1 vo:

tu plurimum cupis esse exulta quadam ac perpolitam litteratura. quam intelligis nemini posse e nostris

hominibus absolute contingere: ubi græca& litte
ra& omnino sint rudes. Cæterum ut ad Aesopum
redeam: ex eius uita quæ est ueluti totius operis ca
put: qualis uir fuerit: dilucide cognosces. Est enī
ut uidebis: & lauta & facetia& plena: quæ dum le
gitur uel e mortuis risum excuteret. id autem ita
esse res ipsa idicabit. Nolim enī prolyxiore uti ora
tione: ne pro uoluptate tædium tibi afferam. Vale
uir doctissime ac sapientissime: & me uti soles
ama.

As this epistle affords us evidence of the utmost importance concerning many obscure points connected with the Editio Princeps of the Greek Æsop, it will be worth while to scrutinize its various features more closely.

This text has here been reproduced with the utmost care, being given line for line, with every abbreviation, every dot over an *i*, and every punctuation mark carefully noted. It is printed in a large-sized Roman type, and the following peculiarities should be especially noted:

All the single *t*'s are short, being the same height as the vowels, for instance. *ft* and *ct* in every instance form ligatures.

Initial and medial *f* is always long, final *s* always short, except in the words *omnes* and *eas* in the ninth line of the recto page. Double long *f* always forms a ligature, but double *f* does not in *afferet*, although it does in *difficulter* and *afferam*.

Small *æ* is always printed as a diphthong, but capital *Æ* is not.

There are no *v*'s or *j*'s used, except capital *V*'s in *Verum* and *Vale*. A capital *U* does not occur.

The syllable *-rum* is four times abbreviated R. An *n* is indicated frequently either by a short line over the preceding vowel, or by a long one. The *p* sign is used only once. The & appears to be overgrown in comparison with the remaining letters.

The punctuation used differs from our modern system in some respects. The periods are triangular in shape, the colons square. A peculiar sign is a "slant colon", either right or left, composed of two triangular dots. The single instance of the left slant colon occurs after the word *redeam* on the verso page.

A full page of the Roman type would have contained twenty-

five lines, but neither of the pages found is complete in this respect.

Passing on to the Greek text, we note that it begins on the recto of the second folio as follows:

Fo 2 ro :

ΑΙΣΩΠΟΥ ΒΙΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΜΥΘΟΠΟΙΟΥ . ΜΑ
ΞΙ' ΜΩ ΤΩ ΠΛΑΝΟΥΔΗ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΕΙ' C.

π ραγμάτων φύσιν τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἡκρί

The whole of the Life of Æsop has been printed as a single huge paragraph extending to fo 32 vo, on which there are only seventeen lines, the last one being:

τῷ Αἰσώπου θανάτῳ γεγόνασιν.

At the beginning of the body of this text the printer has left a blank measuring 18 by 28 mm., and extending over five lines. This space was intended to be filled by an ornamental initial, but the rubricator has not done his part, although in the middle of the first line the printer has put a small letter for his guidance.

On fo 33 ro the fables begin with the following heading:

ΑΙΣΩΠΟΥ ΜΥΘΟΙ
ΑΕΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΩΠΗΞ

As a specimen fable the following may serve:

Fo 40 ro, line 6:

Γυνή καὶ ὄρνις

Γ *υνὴ χήρα τις ὄρνιν εἶχεν καθ' ἐκάστην ἡμέραν
ὥδ' αὐτῇ τίκτουσαν. νομίσασα δὲ ὡς εἰ
πλείους τῇ ὄρνιθι κριθὰς παραβάλλοι,
δὲς τέττεται τῆς ἡμέρας, τοῦτο πεποίηκεν. ἡ δ'
ὄρνις πιμελὴς γενομένη οὐδ' ἀπαξ τῆς ἡμέρας τε-
κεῖν ἠδύνατο. Ἐπιμύθιον.
Ὁ μῦθος δηλοῖ, ὅτι οἱ διὰ πλεονεξίαν τῶν πλειό-
νων ἐπιθυμοῦντες καὶ τὰ παρόντα ἀποβάλλου-
σι.*

These fables continue until fo 70 ro, where at the bottom of the page the last line is as follows:

ριτας. τέλος τῶν τοῦ Αἰσώπου Μύθων.

The verso of this last folio is entirely blank.

The fables number one hundred and forty-seven, and are in accordance with Greek usage arranged in alphabetical order except towards the end where disorder prevails.

The spaces regularly left for the rubricator to insert an ornamental initial to each fable give rise to some interesting observations. In the case of the first fable, as we have already seen, this space is five lines high. For the remaining fables it is only three lines high, except in a few instances where the bottom of a page intervening it has been reduced to two lines, once even to a single line. In one instance without apparent reason this space has been reduced to two lines in the middle of a page.

The guiding letter for the rubricator is in every case placed in the upper left-hand corner of the blank space, not in the middle of the first line as was done in the *Life of Æsop*. A full page of the Greek text contains twenty-five lines, but as the leaves have been very irregularly folded the various margins are oftentimes extremely unequal in width. As a specimen page with margins of average proportions fo 2 ro was taken, and here it was found that the upper and interior margins were about equal in width, while they were less than half that at the bottom and a trifle more than half the exterior one. As margins depend primarily on the printer, and next on the binder, these proportions would probably vary considerably in other copies of the *Editio Princeps*.

The leaves are numbered in lead pencil (twice) by modern hands on the rectos at the lower left-hand corner of the text. But there are also traces of a much older system of foliation at the lower right-hand corner of the rectos placed quite an appreciable distance from the printed text. These letters and numerals were apparently stamped on the leaves after the printer had completed the body of the text, and probably originally extended throughout the entire volume. Most of them were no doubt later trimmed off by the binder's knife when this copy received its present covering, as only nine leaves now show any remains of what must have been the original marking. The letters used seem to have been Roman capitals interspersed perhaps with a few lower case forms, while the numerals are in every instance Arabic. The type (or stamps) used is much ruder in appearance than that in the Latin text.

The following traces were noticed :

fo 33 ro : upper portion of a capital E or F ;

fo 36 ro : a stamp similar to the preceding ;

ΛΙΣΩΠΟΥ ΒΙΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΜΥΘΟΠΟΙΟΥ · ΜΑ ΖΙΜΩ ΤΩ ΠΛΑΝΟΥΔΗ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΕΙΣ ·

τ ραίματων φύσιν τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἡκρί-
 βωσαν μὲν καὶ ἄλλοι, καὶ τοῖς μετ' αὐ-
 τὸν παρέδωκαν φέροντες · αἰσώτως
 Δὲ δοκῇ μὴ πόρρω θειότερας ἐπιτηροί-
 ασ τῆς ἠθικῆς διδασκαλίας ἀτάμε-
 ρος, πολλῶ τῷ μέτρῳ τοὺς πολλοὺς αὐτῶν παρε-
 λάσαι · καὶ γὰρ οὐτ' ἀποφαιρόμενος οὔτε συλλογί-
 ζόμενος, οὔτε μὴν ἐξ ἱστορίας, ἣν ὁ πρὸ τῆς κατ' -
 αὐτὸν ἡλικίας ἠνεγκε χρόνος, τὴν μυνθεσίαν Δία
 τίθεμενος, ἀλλὰ μύθοις τὰ πάντα παιδοτρῖβων,
 οὕτω τὰς τῶν ἀκροωμένων ἀγράφει τυχαῖς, ὥς αἰ-
 σχώεσθαι τοὺς λογικοὺς ποιῆν ἢ φρονεῖν, ἀ μὴ τ'-
 ὀρρῖθες μὴ τ' ἀλώπεκες · καὶ αὖ πάλιν μὴ προσέ-
 χεν ἐκείνοις, οἷς πολλὰ τῶν ἀλόγων ἐν καιρῶν
 μεχρὺς προσεσχηκότα μυθάζει · ἐξ ὧν, ἃ μὲν κιν-
 δύνους ἐπιηρμένους αὐτοῖς Διῖδρα ἃ δὲ μεγίστης
 ἐν τοῖς καιρίοις τῆς ὠφελείας ἔτυχεν · οὗτος
 τοῖσιν ὅτ' οὐ κατ' αὐτὸν βίον φιλοσόφου πολιτῆ-
 ας ἐκόνα προθέμενος, καὶ ἔργοις μάλλον ἢ λό-
 γοις φιλοσοφήσας, τὸ μὲν γένος ἐξ ἀμορίου τῆς
 φρυγίας κατ' ἡγετῆς μεγάλης ἐπίκλησιν · τὴν δὲ
 τύχην γέγονε δούλος · ἐφ' ᾧ καὶ σφόδρα μοι δοκῇ

The Greek text wherever cited in this description has been printed in
 ordinary Greek type. For its appearance in the original, the accom-
 panying facsimile of the first page of the Greek text (fo 2 ro) may
 serve as an illustration.

- fo 42 ro: upper portion of a rounded letter ;
- fo 43 ro: a stamp similar to the preceding ;
- fo 44 ro: plainly F 4 ;
- fo 57 ro: apparently part of a letter, thus Æ ;
- fo 58 ro: H 2 ;
- fo 59 ro: H, ;
- fo 60 ro: plainly H 4.

A trial of the usual system of foliation by quaternions of eight leaves will be found to fit in with these slight fragments. It thus becomes apparent that fo 33 ro originally had an E stamped upon it, probably without a following Arabic numeral as is commonly the case for the first leaf of a quaternion (cf. fo 57 ro where no numeral, or fragment of a numeral, is visible). The numeral 4 has probably been trimmed off of fo 36 ro, as the numerals where preserved are a trifle lower than the letters of the stamp. The curves found on fo 42 ro and 43 ro must be portions of F's probably somewhat blurred. The letter on fo 57 ro must be an H of peculiar shape, as also the letters on fo 58 ro, 59 ro and 60 ro. The small mark after the letter on fo 59 ro must be the upper portion of the figure 3. As the whole volume contains just seventy leaves, the last quaternion must be two leaves short of the usual number.

The ink used in this edition is an intense black, although some pages are noticeably fainter than others, especially fo 54 ro. The signatures are much more blurred, and somewhat fainter than the text.

It is hoped that the above description, besides presenting many features intrinsically interesting in themselves, will also afford a norm with which other copies of the *Editio Princeps* may be compared, as well as other incunabula coming from the same press.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHERS.

The evidence afforded by the statements to be found in the various standard bibliographies for incunabula and rare books is rather special in its nature. While on the one hand these descriptions are more widely known among scholars and book-lovers than any of the others which may be found, their value is greatly lessened through the almost unintermitted presence in them of the bibliographer's pet sin of taking his information at second-hand, instead of deriving it from the sources themselves. As the

bibliographers seldom state how much they know themselves, and how much they see through some one else's spectacles, their so well-known descriptions are in reality shrouded in a great deal of mystery when, as in the present instance, we find them varying widely—*omnes inter se differunt*.

The professional bibliographer of this sort is concerned mainly with the description of an edition as an edition, and only rarely does he think it worth his while to refer to the particular copy which he himself may have examined. As I have been unable with the means at my disposal to either harmonize the discrepancies found in these descriptions or decide between the contradictory statements made in them, I will content myself with subjoining a list of the bibliographical descriptions consulted by me.

a. Maittaire, *Annales Typographici*, Hagæ-Comitum, 1719, p. 262.¹

b. Maittaire, *Annales Typographici*, Editio Nova, Amstelodami, 1733, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 764–765.²

c. Panzer, *Annales Typographici*, Norimbergæ, 1794, Vol. II, p. 96, No. 592.

d. La Serna Santander, *Éditions du Quinzième Siècle*, Bruxelles, 1806, Part II, pp. 20–21, No. 27.

e. Hain, *Repertorium Bibliographicum*, Stuttgartiæ et Tubingæ, 1826, Vol. I, Part I, p. 31, col. 2, No. *265.

f. Grässe, *Trésor de Livres Rares*, Dresde, 1859, Vol. I, p. 31.³

g. Brunet, *Manuel du Libraire*, Cinquième Édition, Paris, 1860, Vol. I, Part I, cols. 83–84.

In conclusion I will merely refer to the recent article of Aug.

¹ *Annales Typographici ab Artis Inventæ Origine ad Annum MD.* Operâ Mich. Maittaire A. M. Hagæ-Comitum, apud Isaacum Vaillant. M.DCC.XIX. 4to, XIV and 388 pp. (Boston Public Library, *2200. 17. v. 1.)

² *Annales Typographici ab Artis Inventæ Origine ad Annum M.DCLXIV.*, operâ Mich. Maittaire A. M. Editio nova auctior & emendatio, Tomi Primi Pars Prior. Amstelodami, apud Petrum Humbert, M.DCC.XXXIII. 4to, VI, XVI and 791 pp. (Washington, Library of Congress, Chap. Z 240, No. M 23 A.)

³ *Trésor de Livres Rares et Précieux, ou Nouveau Dictionnaire Bibliographique*, par Jean George Théodore Graesse. Tome Premier: A–B. Dresde: Rudolf Kuntze, libraire-éditeur, 1859. 4to, IV and 588 pp.

Hausrath¹ and the short statements concerning the Editio Princeps to be found in the literatures of Krumbacher² and Christ.³

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¹ Byzantinische Zeitschrift, herausgegeben von Karl Krumbacher. Zehnter Band. Leipzig: Druck und Verlag von B. G. Teubner, 1901. See pp. 91-105: Aug. Hausrath, Die Äsopstudien des Maximus Planudes.

Geschichte der Byzantinischen Litteratur von Justinian bis zum Ende des Oströmischen Reiches (527-1453), von Karl Krumbacher. Zweite Auflage, bearbeitet unter Mitwirkung von A. Ehrhard, H. Gelzer. München: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung (Oskar Beck), 1897. 8vo, XX and 1193 pp. See pp. 543-546 and 897-898. (Handbuch der Klassischen Altertums-Wissenschaft, herausgegeben von Dr. Iwan von Müller. Neunter Band, 1. Abteilung.)

³ Geschichte der Griechischen Litteratur bis auf die Zeit Justinians, von Wilhelm Christ. Dritte vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. München: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung (Oskar Beck), 1898. 8vo, XIV and 946 pp. See p. 140. (Handbuch der Klassischen Altertums-Wissenschaft, herausgegeben von Dr. Iwan von Müller. Siebenter Band).